



NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Vincent Ramik on January 8, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. In claim 5 line 2 ^{and 3} please delete "the biasing device" and insert --the resilient O-ring--

ycc
3/21/07

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

1. It is the opinion of the examiner that the art of record (considered as a whole) neither anticipates nor renders obvious "a stripping assembly comprising a resilient O-ring for biasing the tips of the fingers radially inwardly from the housing into a central bore of the bodymaker and a piston within the housing which, in use, when the punch is carrying a can through the bore on the forward stroke, lifts each finger tip clear of the can carried on the punch, against the action of the resilient O-ring, and when the punch is on the return stroke, is disabled so as to allow the resilient O-ring to cause the finger tips to close and strip the can from the punch" in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in independent claim 1.